

Adorable 311

[Chapter 311 Eliana's Plan](#)

Eliana felt torn when she gazed at the children's sleeping faces at night.

Her phone began to vibrate at the same time.

Who the hell would call her right now?

When she looked at her phone screen, she found that Eli was the one trying to reach her.

The preceding several days had been a whirlwind of things. She felt as though they hadn't spoken in a long time when she saw the name.

Eliana exited the children's room and shut the door with care. Then she headed to the living room to take the call.

She said, "Hello."

For a little while, Eli remained quiet.

"Eliana, you... Are you doing okay?"

Eli was aware of the situation.

Even though Eliana was a bit taken aback by his question, she quickly realized that everyone who knew her had to know about it.

Eliana's face contorted into a sour grin as she said, "Not at all. I can comprehend what you went through. Being a star, it turns out, isn't as simple as it seems."

"What became of Maurice? Why wasn't he there to help you?"

When Eliana was mistreated, Eli became enraged at the notion that Maurice had done nothing.

Something else also made him mad—not being with Eliana at this very moment.

His questions threw Eliana off guard, and she had no idea what to say.

"You don't need him. As long as there is nothing going on in your life, he cares about you. He's also prone to becoming envious. But he is nowhere to be found when you need him the most."

Eli's words left Eliana in a quandary.

"Eli, what's the matter with you? I'm not connected to Maurice in any way. He owes me no duty of assistance."

Eli scoffed and commented, "Since Maurice is unwilling to assist you, I can step in. First, I'll help you get a safe location to hide. As of now, take a deep breath and let go of everything else."

Eliana was ready to reject when a fantastic thought struck her in the blink of an eye.

To carry out her plan, she required Eli's cooperation.

"Eli, I truly need your assistance. Tomorrow, I'm going somewhere, and then I'm going to..."

Eli agreed to her proposal without hesitation after a lengthy debate.

Before hanging up the phone, he reminded her once more, "Eliana, I will do what I promised you, but you must promise me that you will be cautious and watch your six."

Eliana's heart was warmed. "Hey, take it easy. I'll make sure to look after myself."

Wilfred Morales, Maurice's partner, and Maurice, who was now overseas, were having lunch together.

Wilfred's gaze was drawn to Maurice's swollen, wounded arm a few times.

In the end, his curiosity got the better of him, and he inquired, "Mr. Moran, I am sorry, but what happened to your arm?"

For a split second, Eliana's face appeared in Maurice's head, making him motionless. His features softened as well.

He didn't say a word. He just smirked.

Maurice lifted his head and saw Corbin nearby. Corbin was pacing back and forth, clearly restless.

"What's the matter?" As he beckoned Corbin over, Maurice questioned, a scowl on his face.

"Nothing. I just saw a lot of unanswered calls on your phone. Every one of them was from Mr. Todd. It's possible he had something important to say."

"The odds for that are very low. Do not pay attention to him."

Maurice didn't take Wyatt's calls seriously and went on with lunch.

Corbin returned to Maurice's side when the lunch had almost come to an end. "Mr. Moran! Something's gone awry."

He passed the phone to Maurice in a rushed manner.

When Maurice took a quick look, he saw that Eliana had been vilified online as a mistress. His eyes narrowed.

Eliana was in hot water again in such a short period of time!

In a split second, Maurice jumped to his feet and said, "Go, Corbin, and make the travel arrangements. It is imperative that I get on the next flight back."

Corbin's response was uncomfortable. "I just checked it, Mr. Moran. The next flight is scheduled for tomorrow morning."

Was there anything Maurice could do at this point?

He paused and turned his attention to Wilfred. "I heard that you had a helicopter, Mr. Morales. Do you mind if I take it right now?"

Wilfred was shocked. "What is so urgent, Mr. Moran, that you must return immediately?"

"Something occurred to the lady who made me hurt my left arm," Maurice stated hopelessly, raising his wounded arm.

[Chapter 312 Carrying Out The Plan](#)

The next day, in order to avoid the crazy reporters downstairs, Eliana got up early and planned to sneak out.

Before she went downstairs, she saw from a distance the swarm of reporters that had camped out outside her building the entire night. They started clamoring and then running away.

"I just got word that Eli is nearby! He's likely with his girlfriend! Let's go!"

In a matter of seconds, the reporters forgot about Eliana and abandoned her place of residence.

As far as they were concerned, Eliana was just some nobody who happened to be some rich married man's mistress. Eli's girlfriend was far more important and interesting.

Eli had done a fantastic job. He could be very reliable sometimes.

After leaving her home in haste and exiting the community, Eliana took out her phone and texted Eli.

"Thank you, Eli. I really appreciate it."

Eli was walking his dog on the street near Eliana's apartment.

This morning, he asked his driver to drop him off near Eliana's place.

Then, making sure that he would be seen, he went into a popular cafe and bought two cups of coffee without wearing a mask or hat.

He did it all to distract the media.

When he received Eliana's message, he immediately got back in the car and left.

In the vehicle, Eli sent a message to Eliana.

"What are you going to do next?"

Half an hour later, he received a reply.

"I'll be in trouble again if things go on like this. I have to fight back."

Eliana arrived at the Civil Affairs Bureau gates and saw Erica and Sam, who had been waiting for her for a long time.

As soon as they met, Erica urged her, "So wise of you to come, Eliana. Let's go and get you guys a marriage license."

Erica trembled with excitement at the thought of Eliana marrying a male prostitute and then never showing her face again in this town.

Sam glanced at Eliana with lustful eyes and said, "Don't worry, Eliana. I will be a good husband to you. I will take good care of you and our children."

Looking at Sam, Eliana felt her skin crawl. She felt so disgusted that she could taste her stomach acid in her tongue.

"Cut the crap. Let's just go inside and get this farce over with."

Eliana strode into the hall, and Erica and Sam followed suit.

The receptionist raised his head and looked at the three newcomers in front of him. He knitted his brows in confusion.

"Good morning. How may I help you?"

Erica replied quickly, "These two are here to apply for a marriage license."

The receptionist darted his eyes at the couple Erica pointed. The woman stood there with a look of disgust on her face while the man smiled smugly.

"Are you two really here to get married?" the receptionist asked.

"Yes," Sam replied, beaming.

Eliana kept silent, turned around, and sat on one of the chairs.

The receptionist found it hard to believe that they were a couple.

But he still gave the marriage license application forms to them.

Erica stood aside and watched as Eliana and Sam filled out the forms. She was so excited that she didn't even blink.

When she was about to sign her name, Eliana suddenly stopped.

"What are you waiting for? Sign it!" Erica whined.

"Before I sign this thing, I want you to tell me the truth." Eliana flashed Erica a serious look. "Why did you come at me this time? Did you know that someone was plotting against me?"

It seemed that Eliana didn't know who was behind all this.

Erica hesitated.

Eliana took the pen and pretended that she would sign her name on the papers. "I've already come here with you. What are you afraid of? Just tell me the truth, and I will sign these immediately."

Erica really wanted to take revenge on Eliana.

She would get what she wanted soon as soon as Eliana signed these papers. Besides, Eliana couldn't run away now.

Gritting her teeth, Erica finally relented.

"Even if I tell you the truth, what difference does it make? You're out of luck, Eliana. You have offended so many people, so someone deliberately framed you as Willard's mistress. I think you know who you're taking the fall for. Those reporters and gossipers are too stupid to realize that they are all used. I think you better sign the papers now."

Erica was complacent.

She enjoyed controlling the future of others, especially that of her biggest enemy—Eliana.

"Thank you for helping me clarify the matter."

Eliana abruptly put down the pen and put on a bright, wide smile.

"What are you doing? Are you insane?"

Surprised, Erica looked at the sweet smile on Eliana's face. She wondered if Eliana had been badly upset and gone out of her mind.

Eliana picked up her phone that was upside-down on the table and showed the screen to Erica.

"Now everyone knows the truth."

Erica took a closer look at the screen and found that Eliana had been doing a live broadcast the whole time.

[Chapter 313 The Counterattack](#)

This was the solution that Eliana had come up with last night. It was her ultimate counterattack against those evildoers plotting against her behind the scenes.

Before entering the Civil Affairs Bureau, she had posted online on her behalf that she would unveil the truth to the world via a live stream. Sure enough, a large number of netizens rushed into the direct broadcasting room, eager for the surprises that were in store.

When all eyes were finally on her, Eliana carried out her elaborate act. She was both the director and actress in this big play.

At first, she pretended to be heartbroken and let Erica think her wicked plot had succeeded. Then she manipulated Erica to unwittingly tell the truth and prove her innocence.

As time went on, the number of viewers in attendance continued to soar high.

To everyone's surprise, Eli and Nicole also joined the audience, which immediately attracted a lot of attention. The presence of the country's two biggest stars generated a surge of viewers in Eliana's direct broadcasting room, breaking records in an instant and becoming the top search topic in the entire region.

"You sly bitch! I can't believe you're streaming our conversation on the internet!"

Seeing her face on the live video on the phone's screen, Erica felt her brain was about to explode. The nasty and unfavorable comments posted by the netizens completely overwhelmed her, driving her into a raging frenzy.

No matter how defeated Eliana seemed in the beginning, the viewers immediately dismissed it and began to turn on Erica. They had heard all her lies, cruelty, and thirst for revenge. She had exposed herself for the horrible bully she truly was. Suddenly, the direct broadcasting room was immediately in an uproar.

"Oh my goodness! After going through a web of malice and deception, this matter has been reversed. It's so dramatic. What a turnaround!"

"Eliana is a brilliant woman! She is calm, brave, and smart. It's amazing how she thought of a way to prove her innocence. Such a remarkable performance!"

"Oh, jeez. It turns out that she had been wronged after all. I feel guilty for judging her hastily."

"I made the mistake of doubting her as well. I apologize for all my inappropriate comments. I hope Eliana can forgive me."

"I'm terribly sorry!"

"Me too."

"Hey, wait a minute. Didn't you notice they are in the office of the Civil Affairs Bureau? What do you think the mysterious manipulator behind the scenes really wants?"

Seeing that her goal had finally been achieved, Eliana smiled triumphantly and stopped the live streaming.

She didn't show her face from the beginning to the end, and only her voice was heard by the masses.

"Eliana, you little bitch! Aren't you afraid I will tell the public that you slept with a gigolo and then gave birth to his two bastards?"

Wearing a ferocious expression, Erica bared her teeth and was about to pounce on Eliana. It seemed she had lost her mind and was now utterly desperate to take her rival down.

But at the very last second, Erica's phone suddenly rang. It was a call from an unknown number.

"Is this Erica? We have your husband. Asher will suffer grave consequences if you do not stop making trouble."

A wicked sneer slowly formed on Erica's face. "It doesn't matter if you hurt him. I couldn't care less."

She had previously broken up with Asher. The two former lovers didn't have any feelings left for each other at all.

Erica was about to hang up the phone when a child's frightened voice came from the other end of the line.

It was Ivy. She had also been captured.

In the blink of an eye, Erica lost her composure and became anxious.

"What do you want from me? Give my child back! If you hurt her, there will be hell to pay. Do you hear me?"

The man on the other end of the line didn't answer but hung up the phone instead.

Who on earth was behind this kidnapping?

Erica's mind was all over the place. She was so blinded by rage that she immediately targeted Eliana, who stood in front of her.

The innocent-looking woman was Erica's prime suspect. After all, she was her nemesis.

"Eliana, you will regret this. Kidnapping is illegal! Tell your men to release my husband and child immediately!"

What was Erica talking about? What kidnapping?

Eliana was dumbfounded by Erica's baseless accusation.

She furrowed her eyebrows and looked at the lunatic in surprise. "I only arranged the live streaming. I didn't order anyone to kidnap your husband and child. That's the truth whether you believe it or not."

Eliana was a person of honor and principle. She wouldn't stoop so low as to involve Erica's innocent family.

But Erica only shook her head in disbelief and jabbed her finger at Eliana's face. "You are lying! If it truly wasn't you, then who else would do such a despicable act?"

"It wasn't her because I'm responsible for the kidnapping."

A loud and familiar voice echoed from across the room. When Erica and Eliana turned their heads, the dashing Maurice came into view. He walked towards them with a group of people behind him.

[Chapter 314 Unmasking That Gigolo](#)

"It is a no-brainer thing to say that kidnapping is illegal. However, isn't it also against the law to coerce someone into getting married?" Maurice said with conviction, trying to conceal the raging storm that was building up in his chest.

"Maurice! What are you doing here? I was told you're on a business trip abroad. When did you return?" Eliana successively asked in surprise.

She wasn't expecting to see Maurice at all.

However, if there was anyone who had been utterly shocked by Maurice's unannounced arrival, it would undoubtedly be Erica. Her eyes grew bigger, her fist clenched. Maurice's presence completed the puzzle in her mind.

"I've been racking my brain for an answer, but it turns out to be you. Maurice, you kidnapped Ivy, didn't you?" she asked, chuckling sarcastically.

It hadn't even crossed Erica's mind that Maurice would go to such lengths for the sake of Eliana.

Furious, Erica roared, "Maurice, have you always been this dumb? Have you lost your marbles? You are the renowned CEO of the Moran Group, yet you dared lower yourself to help a slut who got pregnant with two children by a gigolo..."

"Shut up, Erica!" Eliana hastily shouted as traces of anxiousness filled her face.

Maurice's gaze, on the other hand, shifted between the two girls and he instantly confirmed something was going on.

He was neither blind nor deaf. Since the tension between the two was unmistakable, Maurice wasted no time and directly ordered his men to look into that matter further while he was on his way back. In the end, he found out that Erica and Cheryl premeditated everything.

Even so, Maurice couldn't help but feel strange about Eliana's odd behavior in the face of Erica's provocation.

He was curious about how irrefutable the evidence Erica got up her sleeve for Eliana to be scared to death.

With that, waves of thoughts flooded Maurice's mind. He wondered what Eliana was hiding from him.

Erica mentioned two children, right? Was she referring to the twins? Was it possible that those two kids' mother was not Nana?

Maurice stayed silent despite a chaotic mind. His expression remained blank, making it difficult for Erica

to decipher his thoughts.

What she realized, however, was Eliana's weakness.

Erica knew the only reason Eliana was so afraid of her children being exposed was that Maurice might break up with her once he found out about them.

With that in mind, Erica smirked and didn't hold back. Her heart was brimming with wickedness, overpowering her ability to stay logical. Determined to destroy Eliana, Erica swept her gaze at everyone and pointed her finger at the trembling gigolo, Sam.

"It was him! He was the gigolo who slept with Eliana back then. I have a witness! Eliana, if you think the skeletons in your closet won't come out, you're wrong. Remember that there are no secrets time does not reveal. Admit it because there's no use in denying it," Erica boldly announced.

All eyes then fell on Sam.

The latter hadn't even calmed down entirely since Maurice arrived with a group of people. He had never been used to receiving excessive attention, so everyone's scorching gazes made him feel more nervous and uncomfortable.

"Go ahead and tell them the truth, Sam. Tell them that you slept with Eliana five years ago!" Erica ordered.

Faint traces of guilt flashed on Sam's face, but Erica didn't notice them at all. Instead, she constantly forced him to tell the truth.

Not long after, Maurice, who had always known the truth, stepped forward, unable to watch and stand still from the side any longer.

He walked casually toward Sam and gave him a grim look.

"Did you have sex with her back then?" Maurice asked in a cold and sharp tone.

Sam, on the other hand, almost stepped back in fear. Beads of sweat dripped down his forehead, unable to meet the beastly gaze of the man before him.

Not wanting to worsen the situation, Sam didn't dare lie anymore. He gulped down his saliva in nervousness and unhesitatingly unveiled the truth.

"No! Of course not! Nothing happened between the two of us because I went to the wrong room. I didn't touch her or share a bed with her. Sir, please believe me," Sam admitted.

He shook his head repeatedly as he spoke, looking utterly sincere about his words.

"You're lying!" Erica exclaimed in anger. She strode toward Sam, held his shoulders tightly, and added, "Why did you lie to me if it wasn't you then?!"

"It's because I am in desperate need of cash! You said you would give me a large sum of money if I agreed to marry this woman, so how could I refuse?" Sam replied in both embarrassment and frustration.

He could only heave a deep sigh in the face of such a situation. Great! What kind of situation did I get myself into? Now, I am in great trouble, and I can't even get paid after all this humiliation! He thought helplessly.

Hearing Sam's reasonable answer, Erica could only look at the floor, feeling utterly weak. "If you didn't sleep with Eliana back then, who else could it be?" she muttered.

Erica's voice wasn't that loud, but her words swiftly pierced through Eliana's ears. Her heart then wildly pounded as if horses were running inside her chest.

Eliana could feel her strength gradually depleting, but her eyes automatically searched for the man who had been calm since he arrived. Suddenly, she felt like all the trivial clues she had were slowly making sense.

[Chapter 315 The Truth Came Ou](#)

Eliana was determined to know the truth today.

Ignoring everyone else around her, she went straight to Maurice and began unbuttoning his shirt without saying anything.

She had made up her mind that she would undress this man today no matter what.

Unexpectedly, Maurice just stood there with a complicated look on his face and did nothing. He just allowed Eliana to do what she wanted.

After opening Maurice's shirt, Eliana beheld an old jagged scar on his chest.

She was right. Maurice had the same scar as Preston.

But... how could it be possible?

Eliana quickly raised her hand to cover the lower half of Maurice's face. Then, she looked into his eyes.

His bright eyes were also the same as Preston's.

Eliana withdrew her hand and slumped her shoulders. She took two steps back. Her knees turned to

jelly, and she almost fell to the floor.

She didn't know how she looked now, but she was sure that she was unhappy.

Maurice didn't want Eliana to be like this. He tried to hold her hand but forgot that his arm hadn't recovered yet. As soon as he moved, he felt a sharp pain in his left arm.

"Ouch!" Maurice couldn't help gasping in pain.

Both Maurice and Preston had an injured left arm.

Everything was clear now.

Maurice and Preston, the CEO and the gigolo, were the same person.

Eliana didn't even need to ask. The man in front of her had been fooling her since day one.

She finally knew the truth, bright and clear as day. She had been mentally preparing herself for this, but she was still so shocked that she couldn't even speak.

It was Maurice, whose dual identities had just been exposed, who broke the uncomfortable silence. "Do you understand everything now?"

Complicated feelings wreaked havoc on Eliana's heart. As it turned out, her affection had been wandering between the two faces of Maurice this whole time.

Why did she have to feel hesitant, uncomfortable, and uneasy before?

Why did Maurice make her feel that way?

Although Eliana knew everything now, she still couldn't help feeling more confused than she was before.

There was still one person who was utterly bewildered.

Erica stood still, her mind in a mess. What happened five years ago was so chaotic that she hadn't known the truth until just now.

Why did Maurice look so calm, as if he had already known that she had found the wrong person?

"Maurice, have you already known for a long time that Eliana had slept with a disreputable man?"

Maurice didn't want to waste his time on people like Erica, so he just ignored her.

Erica shook her head, still thinking there was something wrong.

"No. If you had known that Eliana had slept with a gigolo, you would've minded it." She finally realized the problem.

But did it still matter now?

Eliana was so angry that she produced a bitter smile. Rolling her eyes, she said, "Take your time guessing."

Why was Eliana so arrogant? It was an undeniable fact that she had slept with a man of ill repute. Didn't she feel bad?

Unless... she already knew who the man was.

Could it be...

At this moment, Erica started to feel dizzy. A terrible possibility suddenly occurred to her.

Could it be... that Maurice was that gigolo?

No wonder Maurice never minded no matter how she humiliated Eliana. It was because he knew that it was him who had slept with her.

And the two bastards she threatened to expose were... Maurice's children.

Erica felt doomed.

When she thought of what she had just done, her face turned deathly pale.

All this time, she had been courting death.

Erica wanted to beg for mercy, but Corbin barked at her.

"Don't move!"

Corbin stepped forward and stared at Erica's collar. He had just found something out of place.

Erica was so scared that she didn't move. Corbin observed carefully.

Then, he found the micro-monitoring device hidden underneath Erica's collar.

Corbin frowned. The existence of the device made him realize an astonishing truth.

Someone had sent Erica here. There was another person pulling the strings, and he or she had been monitoring everything.

[Chapter 316 Secrets](#)

Damn it! The monitor had been discovered!

What should she do?

Cold sweat beaded on Erica's forehead. She racked her brain for a solution, but unfortunately for her she was not clever enough.

Corbin reached out to take off the monitor.

Erica did the only thing she could think of. She slapped him and shouted, "You creep!"

Corbin was stunned.

Erica seized the opportunity to tear the monitor from under her collar and place it in her mouth.

Then she swallowed it.

Corbin put his hand over his cheek. He couldn't believe what Erica had done. For a moment, he couldn't even speak.

"Maurice, listen closely. Return Ivy to me or you will never find out who is behind all this," Erica shouted.

She was confident now that she thought she had something Maurice would be willing to negotiate for.

Maurice glared at her and said coldly, "I don't need you to tell me anything. I only need to arrange for an operation. Once the device is removed from your stomach, the data can be restored. That data is more reliable than anything you could tell me."

Erica felt a cold fear start to spread through her body.

Her face turned pale as she imagined lying on the cold operating table as a scalpel sliced her stomach open.

"You... you can't do that. That's illegal. I will call the police. I swear I will."

Erica deserved this. Eliana felt glad when she saw the terror on Erica's face.

Although the situation was Erica's fault, Eliana could not bear to let Ivy get hurt. She was just a little girl.

Ivy was innocent.

On top of that, Ivy was friends with her twins.

"Maurice... Let Ivy go. Don't threaten a mother with the safety of her child," Eliana said.

Eliana understood that, for a mother, seeing her child in danger was the worst thing in the world.

"Eliana, is this how you think of me? Do you really think I would stoop so low as to kidnap a child?"

Maurice pressed his thin lips together. A dark cloud seemed to radiate off of him.

What was he saying?

He hadn't kidnapped Ivy?

Eliana realized that the only reason she had to believe Maurice kidnapped Asher and Ivy was that Erica told her so.

But Maurice had never threatened Erica with Ivy.

Had she misjudged Maurice?

Guilt filled Eliana. "Maurice, I didn't mean that," she said quickly.

"I don't care what you meant. You and I haven't settled our own business yet. It's not wise for you to meddle in other people's business now," Maurice snapped.

Eliana didn't dare to say anything else.

"Maurice! Return my daughter to me. Mmm..."

In the middle of Erica's tirade, Maurice cast a glance at his subordinates. They covered her mouth with a white cloth and led her away.

Corbin directed the others to leave as well. In an instant, Eliana and Maurice were alone in the hall.

The air was thick with tension.

Eliana swallowed and felt her nervousness increase.

"Tell me, Eliana, what else are you still hiding from me?"

Maurice approached Eliana slowly. He was determined that this time he would discover all of her secrets.

Why was he asking that?

Was it possible that... he still didn't know about the two children?

That was a relief.

Eliana sighed and stammered, "I... I'm not hiding anything from you. You're the one... who has secrets."

"You still want to hide the truth from me, even now?"

Maurice forced Eliana to take a step back.

Eliana didn't dare to look into Maurice's eyes. She felt that if she did, he would see through her and her last secret would be revealed.

The two were in a stalemate, which was broken by an unexpected occurrence.

When Eliana exposed her location in the live streaming, a crowd of reporters rushed towards the scene.

[Chapter 317 Being Taken Home](#)

"Bad news, boss. The reporters are coming. We have to leave here as soon as possible."

Corbin rushed over.

"Let's go." Maurice grabbed Eliana's hand.

"I'm not going anywhere with you!" Eliana refused.

How ridiculous! If Maurice went to her home now, he would find out about the children.

Maurice didn't say anything more and just dragged Eliana towards the entrance.

Maurice's silver Maybach was at the gate of the Civil Affairs Bureau. Maurice stuffed Eliana into the backseat of the car without difficulty.

Corbin got on the driver's seat and immediately gunned the engine. He stepped on the gas and drove away as Maurice and Eliana buckled up in the backseat.

Eliana looked out the window and observed the surrounding scenery. She noticed that they weren't headed for her home, and she breathed a sigh of relief.

It seemed that Maurice hadn't suspected about the children yet.

But Eliana didn't want to be complacent. She took out her phone and secretly sent a message to Nana.

"Nana, I need you to do as I tell you the moment you read this message. Take the kids and go in hiding. Maurice is likely to come and take them away."

Nana, who was resting at home, was confused after reading Eliana's message.

Maurice wanted to take the children away?

Why would he do that?

If there was someone who should be wanting to take the kids away from Eliana, it was Preston. Why was Maurice suddenly in the picture?

While Nana tried to make sense of Eliana's message, in the car, Maurice noticed what Eliana was doing.

Who was this woman texting?

Maurice narrowed his eyes, reached out, and attempted to grab Eliana's phone.

Eliana saw him coming and immediately turned away. The two of them started arguing.

"Give me your phone."

"No! I won't give you my phone even if you kill me!"

They were like children fighting over a toy.

The next second, an unfortunate thing happened. Corbin made a sharp turn, and the force caught Eliana off guard. She lost her grip on her phone, and it went flying out the window.

"My phone!"

Eliana was so anxious that she forgot that the car was still running on the road. When she was about to open the door to pick up her phone, Maurice pulled her back.

"What are you doing? Are you trying to get yourself killed?" he cursed in a low voice.

"Stop the car. I need to get my phone back. Please."

Looking at her phone from which she was getting farther and farther away, Eliana felt a lump in her throat.

"If you keep talking nonsense, I'll throw you out of the car!"

With a gloomy face, Maurice forcefully fixed Eliana in the backseat.

"Maurice! You inconsiderate jerk!" Eliana finally lost her temper after restraining herself for so long. "If you like living a double life and playing role-playing games, that's your business, but did you have to involve me? Did you think it was funny to deceive me for so long? And why do you think you can be angry with me now?"

Maurice was stunned and looked helpless.

It was indeed his fault that he had misled Eliana by donning two identities.

"Just calm down for a minute, will you? Yes, I did lie to you by pretending to be Preston, but I don't have any secrets from you now. What about you? Do you have secrets that you're hiding from me?"

Maurice looked at Eliana with burning eyes, trying to see through her.

Eliana averted her gaze and gritted her teeth.

She turned away and snapped, "Don't change the subject."

Maurice was a bit amused by her stubborn attitude.

"Who's changing the subject now? Eliana, you better pray that you can keep your secrets from me for the rest of your life. Otherwise..."

Maurice didn't finish his sentence, but Eliana understood what he meant.

After such a fierce quarrel, the two of them were a little out of breath. They turned away from each other and didn't speak again for the rest of the trip.

Sitting in the driver's seat, Corbin didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

The two didn't treat him as an outsider.

Soon, they arrived at the old house of the Moran family.

"Why did you take me here, Maurice?"

With an ominous premonition in her heart, Eliana was unwilling to get out of the car.

Maurice didn't say anything. He just grabbed her hand and dragged her out.

"What are you doing? I said I wouldn't go into your home."

Something was wrong.

Maurice appeared stranger now.

Eliana suddenly felt like she was being hauled into a dangerous place, somewhere Maurice would turn into a beast and then tear her, his prey, apart.

"Welcome home, Mr. Moran. And Miss Pierce is here, too. I'll clean up your room right away."

When the maids saw that Maurice came in with Eliana, they hurried to clean up rooms, but Maurice stopped them.

"No need."

Maurice dragged Eliana all the way to the basement of the old house.

"Where on earth are you taking me? Maurice, stop!"

Eliana struggled hard, but she couldn't break free from Maurice at all. She could only watch as he took her downstairs.

After walking down a dark staircase, Maurice stopped by a red door.

[Chapter 318 Fail To Become Evil](#)

Maurice opened the door with excessive force, clearly displeased with the recent development.

The hinges creaked loudly and eerily, which felt like a terrifying scene from a horror movie. Eliana was so frightened that she closed her eyes immediately.

Maurice snapped, "Look inside."

"No!" Eliana cried out and shook her head in fear.

"If you don't open your eyes this instant, I'll leave you here alone for the rest of your life."

"Oh my goodness! Please don't!"

A wise person always knew when it was best to concede. Gulping anxiously, Eliana slowly opened her eyes.

The view that greeted her was not as gloomy and horrible as she had imagined. Instead, it looked like a comfortable small room.

Located at the center was a beige bed, surrounded by a small sofa, a TV set, and an elegant cashmere carpet.

There was everything but a window.

Eliana was stunned. Pointing at the room in confusion, she asked, "Maurice, what is all this for?"

"You really can't tell? I'm going to lock you up inside."

A terrified look appeared on Eliana's face. "But why? What have I done?"

"You have committed terrible mistakes. And you haven't been completely honest with me as of late. Shouldn't you reflect on yourself?" Maurice said reproachfully.

"You! How dare you!"

Eliana trembled in anger, gritting her teeth. Her thoughts were so clouded with rage that she couldn't speak any further.

Before she could refuse and fight back, Maurice pushed her into the room and slammed the door shut.

As she was trapped inside with no certainty of ever being released, Eliana's eyes widened in horror. She frantically twisted the doorknob, but the door wouldn't budge.

Desperate to get out, she pounded on the door with both fists.

"Maurice, you bastard! Release me!"

Ignoring Eliana's fits of rage, Maurice calmly turned around and went upstairs.

When he stepped outside of the Moran family mansion, Corbin stood waiting at the gate. Realizing that Maurice was alone, he became confused.

"What's going on, boss? Where's Eliana?"

"She stays here for the time being. This will teach her a lesson."

Maurice's face was dark and brooding.

"Boss, did you really lock Eliana up?" Corbin asked in bewilderment.

Was the boss slowly turning evil?

Did he imprison Eliana in a cold and dreary dungeon to be his sex slave?

Maurice glanced at Corbin and knew his subordinate was thinking about something erotic and violent.

He approached Corbin and jabbed a finger at his face. "You idiot! It's for her own good. All hell has broken loose outside. It's up to me to weather the storm. I must first deal with the public opinion and fix the situation. By keeping Eliana isolated, I could shield her from all the nasty rumors and harassment. Since she has lost her phone, she won't be able to see the news online and overthink. It may be cruel to lock her up, but I will do whatever it takes to protect her."

After being enlightened by his boss, Corbin breathed a sigh of relief and even felt a little embarrassed.

Maurice glanced at him sideways and ordered, "Send someone to Eliana's home to conduct an investigation. I suspect that the little twins are not Nana's kids at all. It might be difficult to prove my theory, but I think Eliana is probably the children's mother."

"What?" Corbin's eyes widened in shock. "Eliana is their mother? But that's impossible!"

"Cut the crap and do as I say."

"Right away, boss. I'll call some of our private detectives to carry out this task."

As soon as he finished speaking, Corbin turned around to leave.

"Hold on. Come back here." Maurice rubbed his forehead and sighed deeply. "Investigate more carefully this time. I don't know what was wrong with your brain that you made this crucial mistake. How could you mislead me to think that the children's mother was Nana for such a long time?"

If Corbin hadn't confidently reassured him that the children were Nana's, he might have figured out the truth already. It was such a costly blunder.

Knowing that he was in the wrong, Corbin lowered his head and nodded solemnly. "Don't worry, boss. I won't make any mistakes this time."

The moment he knew that Nana was not the children's mother, a bubble of hope and happiness swelled in his chest.

So Nana wasn't Jonathan's lover? It was merely a coincidence?

The corners of Corbin's mouth kept rising. But he was afraid that Maurice would question his suddenly pleasant mood, so he quickly ran away.

Seeing Corbin sprint away as fast as he could made Maurice shake his head. His subordinate fled the scene faster than a rabbit. The young CEO suddenly regretted giving Corbin a salary raise.

Meanwhile, Eliana was all alone inside the basement room. She was so anxious that she couldn't keep still and began pacing around, desperate to break free from captivity.

"Help me! Can anyone hear me? Unlock the door and let me out!"

Eliana shouted with all her might until her voice became hoarse. But there was still no answer. It seemed that no one was coming to save her.

Damn it! How could Maurice do this to me?

Now that she couldn't go out and her phone was missing, there was no way she could contact Nana and the kids to see how they were doing.

This helpless feeling was slowly driving her insane.

Several minutes later, Eliana became tired of shouting and walking. Physically and mentally exhausted, she closed her eyes and soon fell asleep on the bed.

It was a restless slumber. Tossing and turning in her sleep, she found herself in a dream.

In a daze, Eliana was finally able to return home. She rushed to her two children and hugged them tightly, crying with joy.

Suddenly, a pair of big hands appeared and forcefully grabbed Aileen and Adrian away from her arms.

When Eliana turned her head to see who had taken her children, she was met with a chilling sight. Maurice towered over her with a menacing grin, slowly enveloping her in a world of darkness and misery.

[Chapter 319 Lose Freedom](#)

"Don't! Give my child back to me!"

Eliana awoke in terror, her entire face covered in cold sweats.

Her nightmare directly reflected her deepest fear, leaving her dazed for a long time after she woke up from the dream.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door, followed by the sound of the door opening.

Eliana's eyes lit up. Someone was coming!

Several maids came in with a lot of things, including a quilt and food. One of the maids was even carrying a vase filled with fresh lilies.

"What are you doing?" Eliana asked confusedly.

The elder maid replied, "These are all ordered by Mr. Moran. He said that it is cold here in the basement and asked us to bring one more quilt for you. The food was also prepared by the chef. The flowers..."

"Enough! Stop! I don't want to stay here forever! What does he mean?" Eliana shouted in rage.

"He means he can give you everything you want, except for leaving the Moran family."

"I have to leave! Maurice is such a bastard. I'm not going to let him lock me up like this!"

Eliana jumped out of bed, dashed out the door, and went upstairs.

When she reached the top of the stairs, out of breath, she noticed the door that was shut tightly. Her eyes instantly lit up with a glint of hope.

Freedom was right ahead!

She rushed over excitedly and began twisting the doorknob.

She tried many times to twist the knob.

But she still failed to open the door.

Maurice had locked the door.

"Did you get enough exercise today? Do you want to go for a run before you eat? Of course, you can take a shower first."

Eliana shivered in fear as she heard a faint voice from behind her.

She turned around to see the maid standing behind her, smiling.

No wonder no one stopped her when she ran out of the room just now.

They already knew that she wouldn't be able to go out.

"Miss Pierce, Mr. Moran said that you can go anywhere you want in this house, but you can't go out or surf the internet," the maid said calmly.

Eliana got so furious and yelled, "Tell me, where is Maurice? I want to see him now!"

"I'm sorry, Miss Pierce, but he is very busy at the moment. He returned from abroad because of you, and

he has a lot of things to deal with. He asked me to tell you to stay here for the time being and not to go out."

The maid even imitated Maurice's tone while conveying his words in detail.

Eliana sneered. "Does Maurice think I can't do anything against him? From now on, I won't eat anything! I... I'll go on a hunger strike!"

"Mr. Moran also said that if you dare to go on hunger strike and eat less, he will lock you up for one more day until you listen to him," the maid countered.

Maurice was one step ahead!

Eliana was now helpless. "I'll... eat the food!" she said through gritted teeth.

The maid couldn't help but snicker when she turned around.

Mr. Moran seemed to know Miss Pierce quite well. He could even predict her reaction.

Nicole burst out laughing while watching the surveillance video of Eliana's live streaming.

She knew that Eliana would not give up easily.

Even if she didn't have Maurice's help, she would still protect herself and those around her with all her might.

Esteban had also witnessed Eliana's brilliant counterattack, and his opinion of her had shifted dramatically.

"Miss Pierce looks so weak, but she is very tough and determined. She will risk everything to fight for something very significant to her. She is really brave."

Brave...

Esteban's words tugged at Nicole's heartstrings, and the smile on her face faded.

If she had been as brave as Eliana, would the ending of her and Wyatt's story have been different?

[Chapter 320 An Invitation With Ulterior Motives](#)

Esteban's phone rang, jerking Nicole out of her daze. Esteban looked at his phone and found that the caller was Willard, the rich man who had brought Eliana trouble recently.

But why was that pervert calling him?

It was with a deep frown that Esteban answered the phone. "Mr. Hancock, what's the matter?"

"Esteban, I wish to make an appointment with Miss Swift alone. Will she be able to accommodate me in her schedule?"

Esteban's face soured. He turned on the speaker and shifted the phone close to Nicole so that she could hear the conversation, too.

"But Mr. Hancock, why do you want to meet Nicole?"

"Last time, there was a misunderstanding between Miss Swift and I. I just want to meet her so that I can clear the air with her. You know how small the entertainment circle is, right? We might bump into each other in the future soon."

Bullshit. As if that's all this old lecher wants. Nicole thought to herself, rolling her eyes.

She was about to ask Esteban to turn Willard down, but the latter's next words made her change her mind.

"If Miss Swift can make some time to have dinner with me, I will consider casting her as the female lead in Dewitt Lamont's new movie, Starlight."

Nicole's eyes narrowed shrewdly when she heard this.

With an imperceptible nod of her head, she signaled Esteban to agree to Willard's proposal.

Esteban knew that he had no chance of dissuading Nicole, so he gritted his teeth and replied, "That can be arranged. Text me the time and place, and I'll adjust Nicole's schedule accordingly."

"You are a smart man. Don't worry. Both you and Miss Swift will benefit from this in the future. Ha-ha..."

With Willard's cunning laughter still ringing from the other end of the line, Esteban hung up the phone.

"God, why did you agree to meet that pervert? You know what he wants, right?"

Nicole shrugged her shoulders indifferently. "Of course."

"Then why did you agree to go?" Esteban asked anxiously. "Reputation is an important thing for an actress. If you're involved in a scandal with a dirty man like Willard, you will be doomed. Besides, if Cheryl finds out that you stole her sugar daddy under her nose, do you think she'll sit still and do nothing?"

Nicole listened to Esteban's sincere advice with a faint smile on her face. There was a cold glint in her

eyes as she said, "Don't worry. I'm not that stupid. Willard has been getting on my nerves for a long time. Since he dares to go this far, I'll teach him a lesson once and for all."

"Nicole, please don't cause any trouble."

Esteban rubbed his forehead helplessly. What could he do in this situation? He could only blame himself for spoiling Nicole.

In the twinkling of an eye, the day of the dinner with Willard arrived.

Willard had invited Nicole to dine with him at a high-class private restaurant, where he arrived a few minutes earlier than the appointed time and waited diligently at the door.

After a while, a white van rolled to a stop at the entrance, and the door of the van slid open. Wearing a stunning low-cut dress and high-heeled shoes, Nicole stepped out of the van, twisting her hips expertly.

When Willard saw how sexy and coquettish Nicole looked in this outfit, his eyes almost popped out of their sockets. This was beyond his expectations. With a wide smile, he excitedly walked up to her.

"Miss Swift, it's my honor to have dinner with you today," he said, reaching out to touch the small of Nicole's back.

"I'm flattered, Mr. Hancock." Nicole turned slightly, dodging Willard's hand as if she hadn't noticed it. "Let's go inside."

After saying that, she walked straight into the restaurant, leaving Willard behind.

Like a wild dog hooked on the smell of meat, Willard immediately followed her attentively.

Coincidentally, Wyatt happened to be at the same restaurant.

The Todd family had built their fortune in the food and catering industry, and this particular restaurant just so happened to be one of theirs. After the accident at Moonlight last time, Wyatt had become a lot more mature. This time, he had come to this restaurant in person to inspect and learn.

He was sitting in his seat and carefully leafing through the menu when he heard several waitresses whispering behind him. Among their whispers, one name clearly jumped out to him—Willard.

Willard Hancock? Isn't that the guy who was trending on the hot search list because he was allegedly keeping Eliana as his mistress?

Wyatt continued to look at the menu, but pricked up his ears to listen to what the waitresses were talking about.

"Did you watch the live streaming that day? It seems that whole mistress news was fake!"

"I did. It turns out that the woman in the report wasn't his mistress at all. She was framed."

"Then who do you think is Willard's mistress?"

The waitresses enthusiastically gossiped about who Willard's real mistress could be.

Unexpectedly, the protagonist of their discussion, Willard himself, walked into the restaurant at that time with Nicole. The two of them sat at a table not far away from Wyatt.